

FISCAL NOTE

SB 3209 - HB 3458

February 21, 2004

SUMMARY OF BILL: Expands definition of aggravated cruelty to animals to include the failure to provide food and water to a companion animal resulting in a substantial risk of death or death. Aggravated cruelty to animals is punished for the first offense as a Class A misdemeanor and any subsequent offense is a Class E felony.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$1,700/Incarceration*

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant

Increase Local Govt. Revenues - Not Significant

Estimate assumes one Class E felony conviction every three years for committing a subsequent offense of aggravated cruelty to animals. Impact from the Class A misdemeanor offense will depend upon the number of persons convicted of this offense and the resulting increased cost to local governments to confine such persons versus the increased revenues to local governments from fines levied and collected under the provisions of this bill. Such increases are not estimated to be significant.

**Section 9-4-210, TCA, requires that: For any law enacted after July 1, 1986, which results in a net increase in periods of imprisonment in state facilities, there shall be appropriated from recurring revenues the estimated operating cost of such law. The amount appropriated for operating cost, in current dollars, shall be based upon the highest cost of the next 10 years, beginning with the year the additional sentence to be served impacts the correctional facilities population.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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